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Daily Review of the Syrian Press

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Papers Reviewed:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Manar, Al Fayha', Al Ba'th, Barada,
Al Balad, Al Kifah, Al Masa', Al Qabas, Al Ayyam, Al Insha'
Al Nazir, Al Shaba, Al Suri, and Al Jabal.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

NO CABINET CRISIS:

Alif Ba' : The Minister of Agriculture, 'Abd-al-Baqi Nizam al-Din, stated today that his bloc fully supports the government. He added that there will be no reshuffle in the cabinet, and that there is no reason for the cabinet's resignation since it enjoys the support of the people and the Constituent Assembly.

Al Manar: It was authoritatively learned that both Kikhya and Qudsi have assured Premier 'Azm that the People's Party is prepared to support the Government and to accept any views which the Government might submit to the Constituent Assembly with respect to the draft constitution. President Kikhya has further expressed to Premier 'Azm his willingness to withdraw the draft constitution from the Assembly and to refer it to the Constituent Committee for reconsideration in conformity with the Government's views.

BOMBING

(Pr.Dig.84/2)

BOMBING OF AMERICAN LEGATION:

Al Insha' was today the only paper which reiterated the allegation that the bomb incident was artificial. It claimed that the bombing of the US Legations in Beirut and Damascus was a maneuver which the Americans resorted to following the declarations of Dr. Dawalibi.

COMMUNISM:

Al Fayha': Five Communist girls, of Lebanese nationality, who participated in the recent Communist demonstration, were expelled today from Syria and handed over to the Lebanese authorities. The Ministry of Public Instruction has also dismissed three Communist women teachers.

ONLY ONE COUP D'ETAT

Alif Ba': At a ceremony held on April 30 in honor of the graduates of the Military College of Homs, Lt. Colonel Adib al-Shishikli delivered a speech which runs in part as follows:

"Before the Palestine war the responsible leaders of the country neglected the Army and failed to increase its numbers or supply it with proper equipment. When the Palestine war was declared, they thrust the Army into the war, in order to liberate themselves from its power and not to liberate Palestine. The Army, however, asserted its presence in the Palestine war to such an extent that the statesmen began to view with grave concern its heroic achievements. Consequently, they waged a campaign designed to weaken the morale of the Army and to deprive military personnel of the rightful position which they merited. Furthermore, corruption, confusion, exploitation and violation of laws and constitution characterized the government's machinery and administration. The President transgressed his prerogatives and exploited his powers for the purpose of realizing his aims and designs. It was he who said, 'Palestine is an Arab country, and shall remain an Arab country even if the peoples of the world rally themselves against it'. Unfortunately, the result was that Palestine became temporarily Jewish. As for the existing Parliament, it did not represent the wishes of the people and it was elected under the pressure of the ruling clique and under circumstances marked by falsifications, violence and intimidation. The Parliament simply served as a submissive tool in the hands of the government in power, and failed to maintain the balance between the legislative and executive authorities. The officers and soldiers of the Army could no longer tolerate the sorry state of affairs. Finally, they decided to remove the statesmen in power for the purpose of establishing the foundations of a new and progressive system emanating from the wishes of the people.

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"It is not my intention to review at present the great satisfaction with which the first coup d'etat was received. The professional politicians, however, were so timid and unwilling to assume the responsibility of the coup that the leader of the movement headed for dictatorship and deviated from the principles and objectives of the coup. The second coup d'etat was effected for the purpose of rectifying this deviation. The Army thought that the leader of the second coup would redress the errors of the previous dictatorship and would reinstitute a constitutional and republican government. Upon realizing that the leader of the second coup was subservient to certain prejudiced attempts aimed at overthrowing the independence of the country and at establishing a throne in Syria, and upon perceiving that imperialistic conspiracies were contrived against the country, the officers of the Army spared no positive means to warn the leader of the coup and certain highly-placed statesmen against such a dangerous tendency. After all their attempts had failed, the Army resorted to force for the third time to meet the dictates of the general interest.

"It can be said, therefore, that the Army effected only one coup d'etat. Deviations and transgressions followed this coup which were twice revealed and rectified for the purpose of realizing the objectives of the first coup.

"There are certain quarters, which, for want of strong faith or as a result of imperialistic propaganda, spread rumors that the Army does not know what it wants. I openly declare that the Army, as you all know, desires to preserve Syria as a free democratic republic or to merge it in a unified Arab state which combines the entire Arab nation.

"Since the establishment of the Constituent Assembly, the Army has left politics in the hands of the political leaders of the country. It paved the way for the Constituent Assembly to work for the interest of the country in an atmosphere of freedom. Since then, the Army has confined itself to its barracks, preparing for the future decisive battle."

Addressing the graduating officers, Lt. Colonel Shishikli said:

"The nation has placed its confidence in you and has charged you to defend its status and existence. Perform your duty irrespective of whatever difficulties or obstacles you may confront. Let the Arab cause and the eternity of our nation be your chief inspiration. Our enemies are not far from us. Would that they were honest enemies. They are preparing themselves to the utmost of their power to attack us unaware and to deprive us of our glory, heritage and lands. If we do not prepare ourselves, we will lose our cause and live in a state of disgrace and humiliation.

SUPPORT OF SIBA'I

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Al Nasr: A cable signed by many workers in Homs and two cables, one signed by a number of merchants in Hama and the other signed by the Chief of the Union of Syndicates in Hama have been received. They all support Mustafa al-Siba'i for his speech delivered in the Constituent Assembly against the Anglo-American imperialist policy.

COLONEL ABDULLAH AL-TALL IN DAMASCUS

Al Nasr: Colonel 'Abdullah al-Tall, former Military Governor of Jerusalem, arrived in Damascus Tuesday noon, and is staying at the Omayad Hotel. He conferred with a number of prominent Palestinian leaders and Dr. Subhi Abu Ghanimah, the head of the Liberal Transjordanians in Damascus.

There is every indication that Colonel al-Tall's visit of Damascus is connected with forming a Transjordanian-Palestinian front to oppose King Abdullah and the annexation of Eastern Palestine to the Kingdom of Jordan.

On the front page, this paper reports the arrival in Damascus of General 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Jindi, Assistant Chief of Staff of the Jordanian Army, and of Nadim al-Samman, the Director of the Amman Police.

The ANA believes that the arrival of the Jordanian military delegation is connected with the presence in Damascus of Colonel al-Tall and that General al-Jindi will likely request the Syrian authorities to surrender him to them.

GENERAL KANNADY IN DAMASCUS

Barada: General Kannady, the Chairman of the UN Agency for the Relief and Employment of Refugees, is expected to arrive in Damascus accompanied by Mr. Keen the Director General of this Agency. They will also be accompanied by Mr. Nasib Bulos, the press advisor of the Agency. They will meet the Prime Minister on Sunday, May 7.

It is believed that the refugees in Damascus are considering submitting a note of protest to General Kannady. They will possibly demonstrate on Saturday. This Agency reportedly will continue supplying food to refugees until November, after which it will commence implementing Clapp's projects to employ the refugees.

ARAB AFFAIRS

AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT IN CAIRO RECALLED

Al Manar: ANA reporter asked Minister Ma'aruf al-Dawalibi about his opinion on the letter filed by the Egyptian Prime Minister Nahas Pasha requesting the US Department of State to recall Mr. Ireland. Approved For Release 2005/04/22 at CIA-RDP83-00415R005200120005-5, on grounds that he is....

(Pr. Dig. 84/5)

that he is trying to influence the policies of the Arab League member states and attempting to direct them toward the United States and Israel. Minister Dawalibi replied, "I have no knowledge of such a request. It, nevertheless, demonstrates a new national consciousness. H.E. Nahas Pasha is well aware of the interests of the Arabs, and is defending them against imperialism. I have personally given my opinion on American policy, and I think the majority of the Arabs agree with me."

EGYPTIAN NATIONALIST PARTY SUPPORT DAWALIBI

Al Kifah: A Cairo report indicates that the Egyptian Nationalist Party supports the idea of concluding a non-aggression pact between Egypt and the Soviet Union. The Secretary General of the Party, Mr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sufani, stated that in so doing, the Egyptian Government will be doing only what Britain did when it had concluded a similar pact without converting itself to communism.

ARAB LEAGUE

Alif Ba': The Syrian Government was officially notified that the Arab states have agreed to hold the Political Committee's meetings on May 10.

QUWWATLI DECLARES

Al Fayha and other papers published today a declaration by former President Quwwatli whose contents are similar to those of the declaration made to the correspondent of L'Orient on April 21. (See Pr. Dig. 75/3).

IRAQ'S POLICY

Al Fayha' and Barada editorially observed today that whereas the Iraqi Legation in Cairo did not celebrate King Faysal's birthday "in view of the present situation in Palestine", the Iraqi Legation at Damascus gave a party which was described as the most sumptuous party ever given by the Iraqi Legation since its establishment in Damascus. The two papers sarcastically pointed out that in Cairo there is nothing called the Fertile Crescent but in Damascus the Iraqi Legation must be hospitable!!!
